

MackKerricher State Park



Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

GRAY DAVIS
Governor

MARY D. NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources

RUTH COLEMAN
Acting Director, California State Parks



California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at the phone number below. To receive this publication in an alternate format, write to the Communications Office at the following address.

CALIFORNIA	For information call:
STATE PARKS	(800)777-0369
P.O. Box 942896	(916)653-6995, outside the U.S.
Sacramento, CA	(888)877-5378, TTY
94296-0001	(888)877-5379, without TTY

www.parks.ca.gov

MackKerricher State Park
24100 MacKerricher Road
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707)937-5804

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south half consists
of rocky headlands
separated by sandy
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Miles of gently sloping
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northern half.*



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acKerricher State Park's diversity, moderate climate and wild beauty make this special place on the Mendocino Coast a gem among California's state parks. Watch harbor seals and migrating gray whales, stroll on secluded beaches, bicycle along an old logging road overlooking the sea, and experience the solitude of northern California's most pristine stretch of sand dunes.



Visiting schoolchildren

PARK HISTORY

For thousands of years, the Northern Pomo and the Coast Yuki thrived on the natural riches of this area. The resources were so plentiful that various local subgroups, as well as other native groups, were routinely permitted to travel through Pomo and Yuki lands to fish and to collect seaweed,

shellfish, acorns and other foods. Today their descendents still gather foods and other resources natural to the area in the practice of native traditions.

Duncan MacKerricher moved to this area from Canada in 1865. A few years later, he bought 1,000 acres and named it Rancho de la Laguna, where he raised cattle, hogs and draft horses. After a wharf was built at Laguna Point, MacKerricher permitted the owner of a lumber mill on Mill Creek to construct a gravity-fed railway from Cleone to Laguna Point. MacKerricher's holdings became the core of the park when his heirs sold the property to the State in 1949.

MAJOR FEATURES

Three miles north of Fort Bragg on Highway 1, the park extends approximately nine miles along the coast. The shoreline of its south half consists of rocky headlands separated by sandy beaches and coves. Miles of gently sloping beach lie in the northern half.

The entrance road leading to the Laguna Point boardwalk passes three campgrounds and Lake Cleone. The picturesque overpass near Lake Cleone once carried steam engine trains to the former Union Lumber Company mill in Fort Bragg. Today, walkers, joggers and bicyclists use the coastal trail—or haul road, as it is commonly called. Except for a stretch north of Ward Avenue that was washed out by storms, the haul road extends to Ten Mile River. Thirty-acre Lake Cleone was once a brackish water marsh that received a high-tide dose of



Fishing at Lake Cleone

salt water. However, construction of the haul road blocked off the seawater, creating the present trout-stocked, freshwater lake. Motorized boats are not allowed.

PLANT COMMUNITIES

The lake area and campgrounds host a forest of Bishop, Monterey and shore pine, Douglas fir and other types of vegetation that thrive in the favorable soil and climate. Dunes topped with sand verbena, sea rocket, sand primroses, beach morning-glories and grasses produce a palette of yellows, reds and greens rolling gently across the sand hills.

Alongside an isolated stretch of beach, the Inglenook Fen Ten Mile Dune Preserve—an unusual sand dune complex—contains several terrestrial, wetland and freshwater ecosystems. At their widest point, the dunes extend some three-quarters of a mile from the beach to Highway 1. Please avoid stepping on plants. Walk on the beach, rather than the dunes, to avoid harming a number of sensitive, threatened or endangered dune species.

The headlands leading to Laguna Point are blanketed with a thick mat of grasses. Velvet grass, sweet vernal and several other varieties of grasses and wildflowers cover the headlands that extend to the park's southern boundary at Pudding Creek, where a popular beach and the Pudding Creek Trestle are found.

WILDLIFE

Rocky shorelines are home to tidepool organisms that have adapted to their specific intertidal homes. They can die if moved just a foot or two, so please don't endanger these protected resources. Kelp forests line the water along the north side of the point. The beaches to the north—particularly north of Ward Avenue—are not heavily visited. Shorebirds foraging amid washed-ashore kelp may be your only company on this stretch of beach. Harbor seals sun themselves on the rocks near the point. From mid-December to early April, crowds are drawn to the overlooks as gray whales migrate between the Bering Sea and Baja



California. The headlands, shoreline, lake, wetlands, woods and sand dunes draw more than 90 species of birds.

Black-tailed deer are often seen near the lake, as are raccoons, gray foxes, rabbits, and gray and ground squirrels. Osprey, ring-necked and mallard ducks, and great blue herons are some of the birds found year-round at the lake, which also serves as a resting habitat for migratory waterfowl. Though rare, mountain lions have also been sighted in the area.

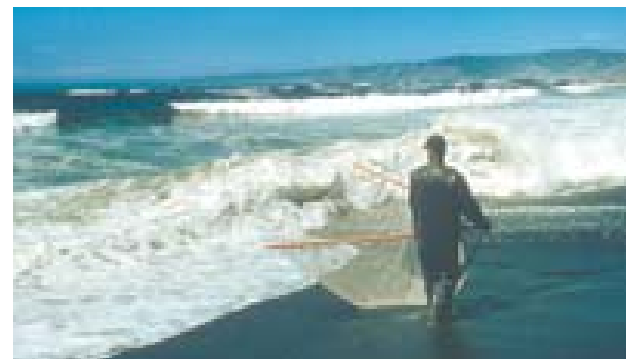
CAMPING AND PICNICKING

In the park's four campgrounds—West Pinewood, East Pinewood, Cleone and Surfwood—148 campsites accommodate tents and recreational vehicles up to 35 feet. All campgrounds have restrooms with flush toilets and hot showers, and all sites have tables, food storage lockers and fire rings. Ten walk-in campsites offer a backpack-type experience without a long hike. Walk-in campers park in a designated area at the south edge of Surfwood Campground and carry equipment and supplies some 50 yards to campsites. Camping reservations are highly recommended, particularly in the summer.

The Lake Cleone picnic area has tables, fire pits with grills, running water and a great view of the lake. A 1.3-mile trail circles the trout-stocked lake. Restrooms are nearby.

ACTIVITIES

Scheduled or guided activities, including hikes, bike rides and campfire programs, are



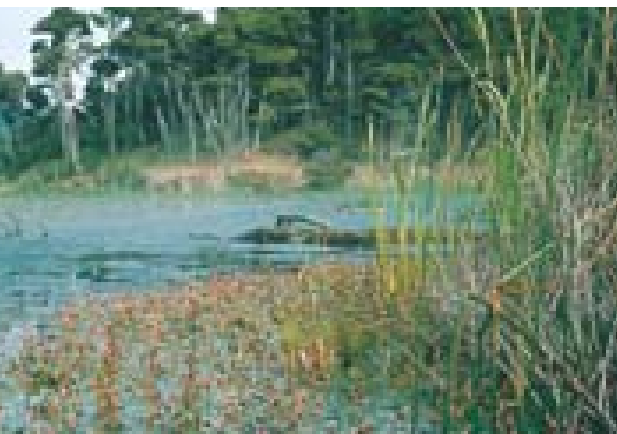
Net fishing in the surf

posted on bulletin boards throughout the park. During gray whale migration seasons, there are organized whale watches on Laguna Point. A skeletal mount of a 30-foot gray whale and a California sea lion are exhibited next to the visitor center at the park's entrance. Staffed by volunteers, the visitor center features interpretive displays and a gift shop with books and other printed material. A private concession located near the park offers horse rides in designated areas of the park.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES &

- The raised walkways at Laguna Point and Lake Cleone.
- Restrooms and seven paved campsites. Please call ahead for detailed information.

This park is supported in part through a nonprofit organization. For more information contact: Mendocino Area Parks Association, P.O. Box 1387, Mendocino, CA 95460 • (707) 937-5397
Email: mapa@mcn.org

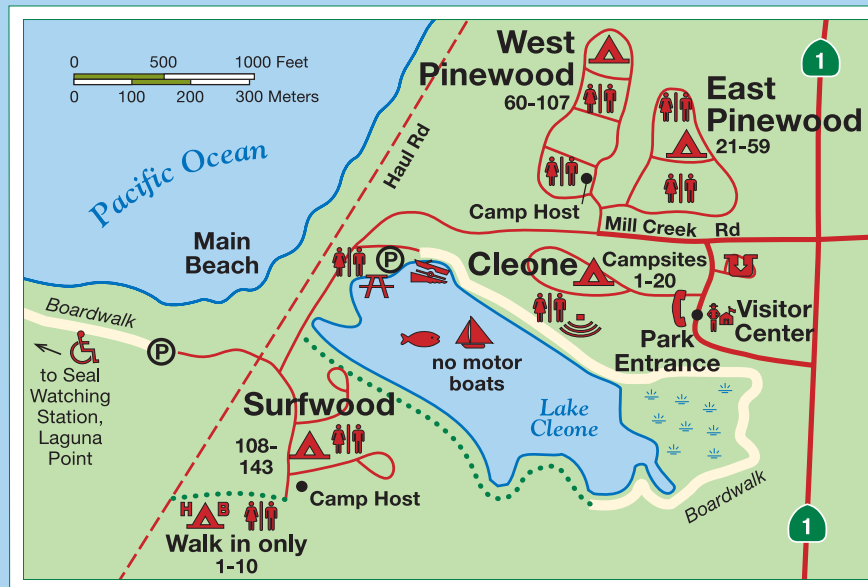


NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Westport-Union Landing State Beach, 1.5 mile north of Westport (707) 937-5804
- Jug Handle State Reserve, 1 mile north of Caspar (707) 937-5804
- Russian Gulch State Park, 2 miles north of Mendocino (707) 937-5804
- Caspar Headlands State Beach and State Reserve, 4 miles north of Mendocino (707) 937-5804

PLEASE REMEMBER

- It is illegal to remove or harm plants, animals or other natural features.
- Keep dogs on a controlled leash no longer than 6 feet. In campsites, dogs must be enclosed in a tent or vehicle at night.
- Bicyclists under age 18 must wear helmets. Bicycles are not allowed on boardwalks and the lake trail.
- Keep campground fires in the rings provided. Purchase firewood at the park entrance and at camp host sites. Do not collect fallen twigs and branches—they provide important nutrients.
- Loud noise or disturbing others between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. is prohibited. Engine-driven generators are not allowed between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- There is a three-vehicle limit per camp-site. Park only in your registered site.
- Call (800) 444-7275 for camping reservations.



Legend

	Paved road
	Unpaved road
	Trail
	Accessible Feature
	Boating
	Boat Launch
	Campfire Center
	Campground
	Fishing
	Hike/Bike Campground
	Marsh
	Parking
	Picnic Area
	Ranger Station
	Restroom
	RV Sanitation Station
	Telephone

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